

10. It shall be the duty of the general assembly to regulate by law, the cases in which deductions shall be made from the salaries of public officers, for neglect of duty in their official capacities, and the amount of such deduction.

11. Absence on business of this state, or of the United States, or on a visit, or necessary private business, shall not cause a forfeiture of a residence once obtained.

12. No member of congress, nor any person holding any office of profit or trust under the United States, (the office of postmaster excepted,) or either of them, or any foreign power, shall hold or exercise any office of profit under this state.

13. Divorces from the bonds of matrimony shall not be granted but in cases provided for by law, by suit in chancery : and no decree for such divorce shall have effect until the same shall be sanctioned by two-thirds of both houses of the general assembly.

14. In prosecutions for the publishing of papers investigating the official conduct of officers or men in public capacity, or when the matter published is proper for public information, the truth thereof may be given in evidence ; and in all indictments for libels, the jury shall have a right to determine the law and the facts, under the direction of the courts.

15. Returns of all elections for officers who are to be commissioned by the governor, and for members of the general assembly, shall be made to the secretary of state.

16. No new county shall be established by the general assembly, which shall reduce the county or counties, or either of them, from which it shall be taken, to a less content than nine hundred square miles ; nor shall any county be laid off of less contents. Every new county, as to the right of suffrage and representation, shall be considered as a part of the county or counties from which it was taken, until entitled by numbers to the right of separate representation.

17. The general assembly shall, at their first session, which may be holden in the year eighteen hundred and twenty-eight, or at the next succeeding session, arrange and designate boundaries for the several counties within the limits of this state, to which the Indian title shall have been extinguished, in such manner as they may deem expedient, which boundaries shall not be afterwards altered, unless by the agreement of two-thirds of both branches of the general assembly ; and in all cases of ceded territory acquired by the state, the general assembly may make such arrangements and designations of the boundaries of counties within such ceded territory, as they may deem expedient, which shall only be altered in like manner ; provided, that no county hereafter to be formed shall be of less extent than nine hundred square miles.

18. It shall be the duty of the general assembly to pass such laws as may be necessary and proper to decide differences by arbitrators, to be appointed by the parties, who may choose that summary mode of adjustment.

19. It shall be the duty of the general assembly, as soon as circumstances will permit, to form a penal code, founded on principles of reformation, and not of vindictive justice.

20. Within five years after the adoption of this constitution, the body of our laws, civil and criminal, shall be revised, digested, and arranged